Based on the Action Plan and discussion in the joint meeting, following action has been taken:—

(1) Lodging of FIR has been made easier and victim friendly.

(2) Investigation of pending cases is being expendited by the GRP authorities.

(3) Special raids are being conducted by the GRP against absconding accused.

(4) Mobile Police Posts have been opened in few selected trains.

(5) Police>RPF booths have been provided on platforms for the assistance of passengers.

(6) As far as possible trains are escorted by GRP in the vulnerable section specially during night hours.

(7) The compendium of criminals operating on railways are being prepared for sharing of criminal intelligence.

(8) Special joint drives are being conducted against undesirable elements in the Station area.

(9) Periodical coordination meetings between RPF and GRP are being conducted regularly.

(10) Steps for modernization of RPF have been initiated.

Contribution of Bihar to GRP

1525. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of expenditure met by Bihar Government on GRP in 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1999-2000;

(b) whether the Central Government share 50% of the expenditure;

(c) if so, whether there is any claim of Bihar Government in this regard, pending at the Central level; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) With effect from 1.4.79, the cost of Government Railway Police is shared between the State Government and Railways on 50:50 basis, provided the strength of GRP is determined with the approval of the Railways.

Bills raised by Bihar Government towards 50% cost of GRP deployed during the given period are as. under:—

Rs. in crores

Year	Bils raised
1995-96	0.74
1996-97	4.25
1997-98	11.71
1998-99	9.11
1999-2000	1.82

(c) and (d) Total outstanding payable by Railways to Bihar Government as on 30.6.2000 is Rs. 7.30 cr., which is due to non-submission of Audit certificate.

Increase In Rail Accidents

† 1526. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments reaction to the news item captioned "Bharat Main rail durghatnain bharhi", published in Punjab Kesari dated 4th July, 2000 and whether Government are contemplating to take any concrete steps in this regard; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The universally accepted index of train accidents is number of train accidents per million kilometres. This index which stood at 5.5. in 1960-61 has come down to 0.58 consequential train accidents per million train kilometres during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99. On Indian Railways, approximately 65 to 70% accidents are due to Railway staff failure. Railways accord the highest priority to the safety aspect and constantly endeavour to prevent train accidents.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.